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cont a frequency detection device for detecting a frequency component of the alternator output signal;

a controller for comparing the frequency component of the alternator output signal to a threshold frequency, and generating an indication signal based a result of the comparison; and
an indication device responsive to the content of the indication signal for indicating the operation of the alternator.

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18. (Amended) A system for evaluating the operation of an alternator comprising:
means for receiving an alternator output signal representative of a rectified output of the alternator;

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means for detecting a frequency component of the alternator output signal;
means for comparing the frequency component of the alternator output signal to a threshold frequency;
means for generating an indication signal based the comparison result; and
an indication device responsive to the content of the indication signal for indicating the operation of the alternator.

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Please add new claims 23 and 24 as follows:

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23. (NEW) A system for evaluating the operation of an alternator comprising:
means for receiving an alternator output signal representative of an output of the alternator;

means for generating a reference threshold based on the level of the alternator output signal according to a predetermined rule;

means for comparing the level of the alternator output signal with the reference threshold and generating a frequency signal indicating the frequency component of the alternator output signal based on the comparison result;

means for comparing the frequency component of the alternator output signal with a threshold frequency, and generating an indication signal representative of the operation of the alternator based on the comparison result of the frequency component and the threshold frequency; and

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don't* indication means, responsive to the content of the indication signal, for indicating the operation of the alternator.

24. (NEW) The system of claim 16, wherein the reference threshold is the average of the peak level and valley level of the alternator output signal.
